



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Fatal Car Crash Near High School in Whittier

A 19-year-old man pleaded no contest yesterday to driving under the influence of alcohol and crashing his car, killing one teenager and severely injuring another, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Daniel Vasquez (dob 12/28/96) pleaded open to the court to two felony counts in case VA142422: gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury.

The defendant also admitted special allegations that he personally inflicted great bodily injury on one victim and caused a second victim to become comatose due to brain injury and to suffer paralysis.

Vasquez is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 13 in Department J at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. The open plea means a sentence was not negotiated with the District Attorney's Office.

Deputy District Attorney Garie Lynn Oehler, who prosecuted the case, said on the morning of April 26 Vasquez consumed alcohol before driving five teenagers to La Serna High School in Whittier.

During the drive, the defendant drove at excessive speeds, lost control of the vehicle and overturned his car, according to the prosecutor.

One passenger, Ivette Macias, 14, was pronounced dead at the scene. A second passenger, a 15-year-old girl, sustained critical injuries and was taken to the hospital for treatment, the prosecutor added.

After several months of investigation, Vasquez was charged on July 20 in connection with the crash.

The case was investigated by the Whittier Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.